



# The Mission Trail

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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. . . It is my pleasure once again to come to the listeners of radio station XEG. This is THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast of Guthrie, Oklahoma and your speaker is Willie Murphey. We surely hope that each and every one is well and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. We do appreciate so much hearing from those who have been standing by with their prayers and letters of encouragement in this our effort to reach even into the "regions beyond" with the gospel. Indeed we feel the need to take advantage of these opportunities before the doors are closed.

For the benefit of our new listeners to the broadcast, let me urge you to send us your name and address at once that we may include you on our mailing list to receive the printed copies of the message each week. There is no charge or subscription price. We are glad to mail them to you as the Lord provides the means. Our address once again is The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

But now for our scripture reading at this time consider these two verses in Job, chapter 28 and verses 7 and 8. I quote:

## "THERE IS A PATH

which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen: The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it."

First notice the small but very significant word of path. Now that is spelled p-a-t-h. Let me give you the definition of this word. Path, 1st - a beaten way by which men can walk; 2nd - the regular methods by which one lives, or shows his character. This is used by both God and man.

To describe the definition of path even better listen to this interpretation from Webster's dictionary. Path - A track usually made by foot travel: a way or track in which anything moves; also, a course or way of life, thought, etc.

So you see then that this little word of path has a great meaning. First, it is described as a track or way by which one can walk. This may be through the jungle or through the desert or wherever one would seek to move about from one place to another.

The early American Indians had paths which they were very experienced in following; nevertheless, if one was unfamiliar with their paths they might become lost. Yet an expert Indian guide would be able to cross the continent from the Atlantic ocean to the vast and wide expanse of the Pacific through the paths which he followed across the nation.

And speaking of the American In-



dians and their ability to cross the continent by way of the trails and paths which they followed, please let me elaborate a little further and call your attention to the Louisiana Purchase, a vast expanse of land extending from the tip of Southern Louisiana up along the mighty Mississippi River and across the continent even to the Rocky Mountains.

Now this Louisiana Purchase, as those of you who are familiar with history will know, was bought from France for the price of fifteen million dollars during the time when Napoleon greatly needed the money to support his military adventures. Of course, many people in the thirteen states and also in Europe even questioned the judgment of James Monroe who was acting as the minister for President Thomas Jefferson. But do you know why so many people thought this Louisiana Purchase was such an insignificant thing? Let me explain. This vast expanse of country was inhabited by Creoles, French Royalists, Acadians (expelled from Nova Scotia by the British), Germans, Indians, Spaniards, and Americans among them. And what's more, there were very few roads and travel was difficult. In fact, since we are talking about paths, let me emphasize that this was the way travel was carried on in those early days. Furthermore when the great explorer Meriwether Lewis and William Clark made their notable journey in the year 1803 they began at the Missouri River and crossed the Northwestern part of our country and traveled along the Columbia River to the Pacific.

But wait, do you know how they were able to make this journey? It was not because they were familiar with all the trails and paths of the Northwest, regardless of all the knowledge and experiences which they had. This time

they needed help. They needed help to know how to seek out the hidden paths across the mountains before they could reach their destination. Now let me give you the secret of their successful trip across the vast expanse of the Northwest which as yet had been largely unexplored by the white man.

In the spring of 1805 Meriwether Lewis and William Clark obtained horses and a guide from the Shoshone Indians. It was this Indian guide who was able to help them successfully seek out the paths of the American Indians. Robert Livingston, one of the statesmen of that day had this to say about the Louisiana Purchase. "We have lived long, but this is the noblest work of our whole lives."

Now all of this American history just tends to emphasize this point. It was absolutely necessary for someone to have knowledge of the paths which wound through those forests of the early day where dangers lurked on every hand and across the barren deserts where many perished because of their lack of understanding of the right paths to follow.

Even so, just as this is true in the natural, it is even more so in the spiritual. Notice once again our text, it says, "There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen:" Now I believe that for us to successfully travel our spiritual journey through life, we need a guide, we need someone to point out to us the proper path to take.

Let me explain to you what a vulture is. This is a large hawklike bird that soars and soars in the heavens continually looking and smelling for some decomposed body for his next meal. Therefore the vulture is attracted to a dead animal and naturally, therefore,



is a symbol of unrighteousness or false spirits. The true path of God is above this. The text says that no vulture's eye hath seen this path, it is one of holiness and righteousness and only the redeemed of the Lord is able to walk therein. Furthermore, a lion is a type of greediness and selfishness continually seeking to lurch upon its prey whenever some innocent, unsuspecting animal may furnish the lion with his next meal. This is also a symbol of wickedness in high places. Many of those who profess to be followers of God are continually seeking out innocent victims for their prey. But our text clearly points out that the lion's whelps have not trodden this path of righteousness. In other words they are unable to enter into the straight and narrow path of righteousness.

Listen now to what David said in regard to this path in Psalms 16:11, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Now here is the way this path is illuminated. Listen as I read to you again from Psalms 119 and verse 105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Now another reason why I like this path is found in Proverbs 4:18. It says, "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." But on the contrary listen at the prediction for those who forsake the right path, verse 19 says, "The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble." And then consider this warning from verse 14, "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men." Further warning is given in verse 15, it says, "Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away."

But speaking of paths let us not over-

look this verse in Proverbs 4:26 and 27, "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."

I would say, then, that this plan of salvation is now complete for those who will accept it and enter into this path of righteousness. I hope that those of you who hear this broadcast tonight who have not yet experienced this change of heart will make the decision just now to enter into this path of righteous living. Nevertheless, there are some things required for you to do. Listen now to this verse from Hebrews 12:13, "And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed." Friends, I hope that each of you will make the necessary preparations to make those paths straight for your feet, and will fully give your heart to the Lord. Let us spend a moment in prayer.

Our gracious Father,

We pray that you would take the words of the message today and cause them to illuminate the path of those who may be walking in darkness. Shine the light of thy salvation upon those who are willing to accept the truth and lead them in the paths of righteousness for thy name's sake. Amen

Listen now to this poem which Kathleen has for you.

#### The Bridge Builder

An old man, going on a lonely way,  
Came at the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide;  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.  
"Old man," said a fellow-pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with  
building here;

Your journey will end with the ending day,  
 You never again will pass this way;  
 You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,  
 Why build a bridge to span the tide?"  
 The builder lifted his old, gray head--  
 "Good friend, in the path I have come"  
 he said,

"There followeth after me today  
 A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
 This chasm that has been naught to me,  
 To the fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
 He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
 Good friend, I am building this bridge  
 for him."

--Selected

Thank you, Kathleen. Friends, may I remind you that this message has been brought to you by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. It has been a real pleasure to be with you and now until next Friday night at 11:00, this is Willie Murphey speaking for The Mission Trail of Guthrie, Oklahoma and saying may the Lord's richest blessings be yours and a very pleasant good night!

--O--

If the Lord is willing, Kathleen hopes to leave for California within a few days where she plans to spend some time with the workers and saints at the mission stations in Mexico. Your prayers would be appreciated.

## AT PRESS TIME:

We had a special treat last Sunday night by having the opportunity to be present with Bro. Roy Harmon and his wife Virginia in their services in Kansas City. There are a number of zealous and devoted young people in that congregation. They hope to purchase or build a chapel at a later date.

--O--

From Kentucky: "Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey, . . . We are home from the revival meeting in Dayton, Ohio. It was a precious meeting. God blest in many ways and we feel as others did, that it was a meeting for the church in that place and believe much lasting good was done." --Bro. & Sis. Sam Abbott

--O--

From Mississippi: "Dear ones, Please have special prayer for my brother Warner here. He started taking red measles about 12 days ago, he is 62 and has been mighty sick."

--Dorothy Bridges

--O--

Earnest prayer is requested for Sister Jessie Taylor of Guthrie whose affliction is great, yet her faith is strong.

--O--

We extend our sympathy to Bro. and Sis. Felix Francisco upon the death of their seventeen year old daughter.

## The Mission Trail

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